

National Republican

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.

WEDNESDAY MORNING—JANUARY 19, 1861.

Office Cor. 10th and G, near Pennsylvania Ave.

W. J. MURTAUGH, Editor and Proprietor.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Contributors will therefore present them to the editor.

All communications, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to W. J. MURTAUGH, Proprietor, NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, Washington, D. C.

RECEPTIONS.

Mrs. GRANT'S RECEPTIONS.

Mrs. Grant's receptions will be held every Tuesday during the session, between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m.

SPEAKER BLAINE'S RECEPTIONS.

The reception of the Speaker of the House of Representatives will be at his residence, 605 Fifteenth street, from 8 to 11 o'clock on each Friday evening of the session.

MRS. BLAINE'S RECEPTIONS.

Mrs. Blaine's receptions will be held every Wednesday of the session, between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m.

DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

At the Russian Legation Madame de Castiglione will receive on Thursday, from 2 until 5 p.m.

At the Argentine Legation Madame de Garcia will receive on alternate Monday evenings, commencing on Monday, January 9, and will be at home on Saturdays, from 2 until 5 p.m.

We are requested to state that in consequence of necessary repairs, there will be no evening receptions at the British Legation, until special invitations are issued.

THE ALABAMA QUESTION.—The London Economist of December 18, in an article on the Alabama claims, makes the following statement: "We have never disgruntled from ourselves that the escape of the Alabama was an event of which the American Government and people had a fair right to feel offended, and at which we, in their places, should have been almost certain to take grievances offence." Admitting this, it is also willing, in deference to the rather susceptible temperament of the American nation, that the regulation should be continued at Washington instead of London, as an organ of business circles, (the banking and railway press), its views may be taken as those of the class which it represents.

THE TARIFF BILL.—The tariff bill will not get into the House before next week. The members are growing rather impatient, but the committee is laboriously at work, and have been for the last three weeks. It is to be regretted that the composition of the committee is such that its severe labors are only a waste of time and strength. It is thoroughly impracticable. Mr. Kalli and Mr. Maynard stand as the special representatives of the iron and coal interests; Mr. McCarthy as the representative for salt; Mr. Blair as the representative of lumber; while the two Democratic representatives are out and out free-traders. If the numerical strength of such practical men as Schenck, Hooper and Allison could be increased, a practical measure likely to be adopted by the House would be the result, but now I doubt if even the committee really much hope of the success of the bill as reported. The fight promises to be the liveliest one introduced here for years.—*Washington Correspondent.*

SENATION AMONG DIPLOMATS.—EXCITEMENT AMONG THE FEMALE DIPLOMATS.—It is a social excitement here again. Don-Emiliano Lopez won to one of Fish's receptions. It seems, in company with General McMahon, our late Minister to Paraguay, and other accomplished lady, has entered to this Garcia, the Argentine Minister.

Secretary Fish that Lopez's presence was an insult to a recognized Minister of the Argentine confederation. What Mrs. Fish answered to this is not known, but the fact of a complaint having been made has occasioned a regular sensation in social circles.

The ladies are talking about the matter very energetically, discussing both sides of the question with an animation that only female groups can develop. Your correspondent has not heard that there is a prospect of a duel resulting.—*Washington Correspondent.*

MILITARY PRISONS.—Among the Executive communications laid before the House yesterday morning, was a communication from the Secretary of War, submitting extracts from the report of the Adjutant General for 1860, recommending the adoption of a system of military prisons, and the draft of a proposed law upon the subject.

The draft, as submitted, proposes to give the President authority to establish, not exceeding five military prisons in proper localities.

2. That the General of the Army shall detail prison commandants and guards.

3. That each convict shall be allowed such uniform, fatigue clothing, rations, or other articles of food as the Secretary of War may prescribe.

4. That each convict shall be allowed such a quantity of tobacco, or other articles of ration, or with deprivation, of tobacco, at the discretion of the court.

LETTERS are frequently received at the United States Treasurer's office asking if there are any provisions for the redemption of Continental scrip, issued in 1775-76, and 1779, and the demands for its redemption in "Spanish milled dollars" are not infrequent. According to the act of Congress of August 4, 1790, a loan was authorized by which the Continental scrip should be received at the rate of \$100 for one dollar in specie, but the act expired in 1797. To holders of these notes the Treasurer offers advice that they are worth more as souvenirs of colonial times than they were in exchange for the authorized Government loans, and to the Government now they have no value whatever.

THE NEW STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING.—The commission to select a site and prepare plans for a new State Department building has made its report to Congress, containing many important reports of the new Department which is located on Lafayette square, but in case that suggestion should be overruled, they recommend Scott Square, a vacant avenue, for the new building. The commissioners, composed of Secretaries Fish, Bogart, Belknap and Cox, General Mitchell, and Messrs. Clark and Muller, the architects of the Capitol and the Treasury. The estimated cost is about \$1,000,000.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

Forty-First Congress—Second Regular Session.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1861.

SENATE.

Mr. Abbott introduced a bill to increase the number of regiments of Infantry and Cavalry and Artillery, so that no presumption of appointments shall be made in Infantry until all the regiments of Cavalry and Artillery are recruited, and that officers on waiting orders shall receive no pay until assigned to some post or station. He said that the bill was proposed to commence public works that we can best cut down, and reduce. It is the opinion of the other end of the Avenue, because after all its promises of economy that the Government was doing in this behalf had been heralded all over the country by telegraph, that the Attorney General from Boston had written to him, that he was not the reason why it seemed to be the intention of the Senate to do away with the power to drive the Attorney General from power.

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Mr. Abbott offered an order authorizing the Vice President to fill the vacancy in the Board of Regents of the University of Virginia.

He said that the bill was adopted, and the Vice President was taken up. Mr. Brown moved it indefinitely postponed.

It was discussed until the expiration of the morning hour, when went over.

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